



Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Sept 22, 2021

Time: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-Chair Pusey, Co-Chair Jolin, Commissioners Soneja, Bauer, Brown, Haynes, Grossman, Carey, Rogers, Carney, Minton, Horowitz

DEI Office: Jillian Harvey

APD: Captain Flynn

Community Members: Rebecca Gruber

Meeting called to order at 8:00 pm by Co-chair Pusey

Land acknowledgement by Co-chair Jolin

Agenda

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement
2. Speaker: Senator Cindy Friedman
 - a. House and Senate bills focusing on anti-racism and human rights issues:
 - i. 959 Act to Amend Definition of Hate Crime
 1. Hasn't yet been heard in Committee yet. Closes loophole in the current bill regarding standing for something done not on one's property but impacting one.
 - ii. 365 Act Relative to Anti Racism, Equity and Justice in Education to establish a panel to work on curriculum reform
 1. Has had a hearing but not left the Committee yet. Sen. Lewis leading this effort. Some opposition has been seen with this act.
 - iii. A mascot bill was proposed
 1. State House is finding towns are doing on their own. Legislators may prefer this change at the town level rather than mandate it at the state level
 - iv. Sen Friedman also especially focused on the issue of Human Rights and health care: to ensure that all have access to quality health care at an affordable price.
 1. Working to get all children regardless of immigration status will have access to health care.
 - v. Overall, there seems to be limited appetite for any major mandates.
 - vi. 5 Bills related to Indigenous people pending
 - vii. Best ways to move bills along is: make sure your legislator is on board and then supporting people who are in districts where their legislators are on the fence
3. Review of Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve by Commissioner Grossman, seconded by Soneja. Pass with one abstention by Commissioner Minton
4. Review of Aug Community Input
 - a. None
5. Co-chair Report
 - a. No meeting with Co-Chairs
 - b. Meeting with Chief of Police –
 - i. Matthew Shephard Foundation Training Update: Training with APD on Nov 9th.
 1. Community members will have an opportunity to join in an afternoon session. ~40 community invitations available with potentially 4 reserved for commissioners.
 - c. Meeting with Town Manger
 - i. Open commissioner job description posted and sent out as email. Included in the monthly newsletter.

- ii. Co-Chairs will ask Jillian to reach out to those who applied before if possible

6. DEI Division updates

a. Re-Precincting:

- i. Every ten years all communities in the Commonwealth are required to review their population numbers after the Federal Census results are published and submit a new precinct map for approval by the State. The Secretary of State provides preliminary maps that are solely based on population. The state provided maps require local input as the State's mapping algorithm focuses only on population numbers and community review of the boundary lines and underlying demographic data from the Federal Census is needed to adjust the boundaries to respect natural neighborhoods and protect voting rights of minority groups.
- ii. Arlington Town Clerk Juli Brazile has proposed that the Select Board reduce the number of precincts from 21 to 16 to allow more flexibility in the face of anticipated changes to election law, especially regarding early voting and vote by mail. The Clerk has prepared a fact sheet (revised 9/13/21) with information on the reprecincting process and guidance on how the public can be involved. Residents are invited to provide feedback through a variety of channels to assist the Reprecincting Working Group (RWG) in preparing draft maps for review by the Select Board. Please check out all of the information on the Elections Page and provide feedback if you can. The Working group has been working over the last month and continuously as information is updated to layout some potential alternative maps with updated precinct boundaries based on not just population changes but also data that includes, race, age, housing, renters versus homeownership, and income.

7. Working Group Q&A (10 min)

a. Schools and Education:

- i. Reviewed conversation regarding IPD work in the school focused on grades 3 -12.
- ii. Professional development training provided for elementary teachers by a Native American museum director.
- iii. AHRC are seen as a model for the kind of work that can be done for civic engagement.

b. Outreach/Events:

- i. Strong program for the Intersection of Guns and Hate event
- ii. Supporting IPD efforts and planning for National Day of Mourning/Native American Heritage month and Black History Month

c. Communications:

- i. Training complete and newsletter sent to the list
- ii. Commissioner Carney posting AHRC information on FB

- d. Housing:
 - i. No meeting
 - e. IPD:
 - i. Plans to create a video that will feature local indigenous people and a resource document.
 - ii. Will create a list of all the events happening in nearby towns.
 - iii. Key message: indigenous people are here now, not legends of the past.
 - iv. Native American activists asked if AHRC would endorse the bills they are promoting.
8. MAHRC – Commissioner Pusey
 - a. Meeting included survey of ongoing issues
 9. Chief's Advisory Council – Commissioner Grossman
 - a. Key issues APD is tackling including coyotes, back to schools traffic/parking, car break ins, and scams. Promotions and new police officer arrivals were discussed.
 - b. Training on police reform, for SROs, fair and impartial training, de-escalation train the trainer (all of APD will be trained with this), Matthew Shephard training on Nov 9th, ABLE training.
 - c. Homeless in Mugar Woods: all but one housed
 - d. Police Academy: police training has pivoted to “guardian” vs “warrior” mindset
 10. Civilian Review Board Exploratory Committee – Commissioner Rogers (1 min)
 - a. Interim report complete.
 - b. Two key questions that we will review in October: what do we think constituents want as an outcome for this study and what do we as Commissioners think would be a good outcome
 11. Community Input (15 min)
 - a. None
 12. Incidents (10 min)
 - a. Two cases:
 - i. A woman called into our phone number, followed up but no response.
 - ii. Someone who is not a resident but worked in Arlington since 2009, came to work, pulled over to make a call and a resident then accused him breaking into cars. Verbal argument ensued. Police have investigated in detail and charges are being filed with the DA.
 - iii. Captain Flynn also reported on a landlord/tenant situation where there is a claim that the landlord is harassing family of color. Report will be provided to AHRC.
 13. Announcements (5 min)
 - a. Retreat update

- b. Ethics training to be completed by Sept 29th
- c. Coffee Chats
 - i. August - Bauer/Carney – met at Farmers' market, good turnout from community members
 - ii. Sept – Pusey/Jolin
 - iii. Oct – Melanie/Kathleen
- d. Incident Handling
 - i. Oct - Carey

Next meeting: October 20, 2021, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.